

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4, 6-12, 15 and 19-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 15 and 19-22 are amended. The amendments introduce no new matter because they are supported by Applicant's disclosure at least at paragraphs [0118] - [0123] and in Fig. 15, and paragraph [0126] and in Fig. 17, or are made to overcome informalities enumerated in the Office Action or that Applicant discovered in preparation of this response. No new matter is added. Claim 18 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in that claim. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 3, objects to the specification as allegedly failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Claim 18 is canceled, thereby rendering the objection moot.

The Office Action, in paragraphs 4-9, objects to several of the pending claims for certain informalities. While not conceding that all of these informalities needed to be corrected, at least claims 1, 3, 15, 19 and 20 are amended to obviate the objections. Withdrawal of the objections to these claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 11, rejects claims 1-4, 6-12, 15, 18 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 11 and 15 are amended to obviate the rejection of these claims, and the claims depending therefrom. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-12, 15 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 13, rejects claims 1-4, 6-12, 15, and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over "Virtual Storytelling of Cooperative Activities in a Theatre of Work" by Schafer et al. (hereinafter "the Schafer article") in view of "Symbolic Avatar Acting in Shared Virtual Environment" by Broll et al. (hereinafter "the Broll article").

The Office Action, in paragraph 14, rejects claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Schafer article and the Broll article as applied to claim 1 and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0167281 to Cohen et al. (hereinafter "Cohen"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, the display device displays the symbols in accordance with a relation table representing an intensity of a relation between any pair of objects so that a distance, on the display device, between any pair of symbols displayed that represent a respective pair of objects conducting their respective saved activity event corresponds to a degree of relation between the pair of objects. Independent claims 2, 11, 15, 19 and 20 recite similar features.

Neither of the Schafer article nor the Broll article can reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, such features. The Schafer article teaches, for example, that the final screen shot in a single meeting sequence gives an overview of the documents related to this meeting, *e.g.*, the "agenda or a protocol of the meeting" (see page 194 of the Schafer article). These documents, related to the meeting, cannot reasonably be considered to correspond to saved activity events. Additionally, nowhere does the Schafer article teach displaying symbols in accordance with any relation table, much less one representing an intensity of a relation between any pair of objects.

The Broll article teaches, for example, that "[t]he avatar's behavior represents the activity of its owner symbolically: if an employee opens a shared workspace and fetches a document his avatar moves to the room representing his work space, takes a paper out of a bookshelf, moves back into his office, sits down and modifies this document" (see, for example, page 5 of the Broll article). This part of Broll merely teaches that an employee's avatar represents his behavior in real time. Broll does not teach, nor can it reasonably be considered to have suggested, a display device that displays symbols in accordance with any

relation table, much less one representing an intensity of a relation between any pair of objects.

With respect to claim 21, that claim recites "displaying, on a display device, symbols representing a plurality of the saved activity events of one object from a distant side of a viewer to a closed side of a viewer in a time series manner." In previous discussions with the Examiner, the Examiner has viewed the display of certain symbols in a time series manner as allegedly distinguishing over the Examiner's application of the currently-applied references. In careful review of this application, Fig. 17, for example, depicts several activity events being displayed from the distant side of the viewer to the closed side of the viewer in a time series manner. If no axis is defined for the time series display of, for example, a sequence of data points, it is impossible to display anything in a time series manner. It should be noted that neither of the Schafer article nor the Broll article teach, or reasonably would have suggested, that any axis in a display screen of either of those articles represents time. As such, neither the Schafer article nor Broll article can reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combination of all of the features positively recited in independent claim 21.

For at least the foregoing reasons, any permissible combination of the Schafer article and the Broll article, which the Applicant does not concede are combinable in the manner suggested by the Office Action, cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combinations of all of the features positively recited in pending independent claims 1, 2, 11, 15 and 19-21. Further, and because Cohen does not overcome the above-identified shortfalls in the application of the Schafer article and the Broll article to the subject matter of the pending independent claims, claims 3, 4, 6-10, 12, 22 and 23 also would not have been suggested by any combination of the applied references for at least their respective

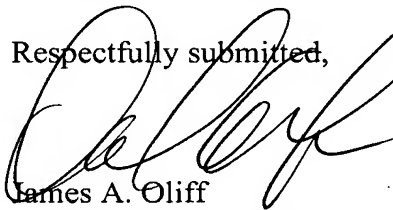
dependence directly or indirectly on allowable base claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-4, 6-12, 15 and 19-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the varying combinations of the applied references are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:DAT/cfr

Attachment:  
Petition for Extension of Time

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